

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W
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R 021739Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0473

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08810

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GB, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: QUADRIpartite AMBASSADORIAL LUNCHEON

AT THE MONTHLY QUADRIpartite AMBASSADORIAL LUNCHEON
WITH FOREIGN OFFICE STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF ON JUNE 2,
THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED:

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR HENDERSON RAISED ONCE AGAIN THE
NEED FOR FULLER CONSULTATION WITH THE THREE OCCUPYING
POWERS ON AMBASSADOR GAUS' TALKS WITH EAST GERMAN OFFIC-
IALS ON VARIOUS POTENTIAL AGREEMENTS AFFECTING WEST
BERLIN AND QUADRIpartite RESPONSIBILITIES. HE STRESSED
THAT GAUS' APPARENT EFFORT TO LIMIT BRIEFINGS TO THE
ALLIED EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN WAS UNACCEPTABLE, AND
THAT SOME SORT OF INSTITUTIONALIZED CONTACT WITH THE
RESPONSIBLE CHANCELLERY OFFICIALS (AS HAD BEEN THE CASE
DURING THE EGON BAHR DAYS) WAS NECESSARY. BOTH THE
FRENCH AND AMERICAN AMBASSADORS CONCURRED IN THE DESIR-
ABILITY OF SUCH REGULAR BRIEFINGS, AND GEHLHOFF SAID
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HE WOULD AGAIN RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE CHANCELLERY IN

A WAY CALCULATED TO AVOID ANY HARD FEELINGS OR IMPLICATIONS OF CRITICISM.

2. IN RESPONSE TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR WORMSER'S QUERY AS TO WHETHER THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT REALLY FELT THERE WAS A CALCULATED PATTERN OF SOVIET ACTION INDICATING A MORE AGGRESSIVE POLICY TOWARD WEST BERLIN, GEHLHOFF WAFFLED. HE SAID THERE WAS SOME EVIDENCE POINTING TO SUCH A CONCLUSION BUT ALSO EVIDENCE THAT LED TO A CONTRARY CONCLUSION. FURTHER DISCUSSION AMONG THE FOUR BROUGHT OUT LITTLE MORE INFORMATION, BUT AT LEAST DEMONSTRATED A COMMON FEELING THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT BE BUILDING UP TO SOMETHING, BUT THAT THIS COULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED ON THE BASIS OF THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION, AND THAT IT WAS ONLY IN THE POST-CSCE SUMMIT PERIOD THAT SOVIET INTENTIONS WERE LIKELY TO BECOME CLEAR. AT A LATER POINT, THERE WAS SOME RE-HASHING OF THE DISCUSSION WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE IN PARIS AT THE RECENT MEETING OF QUADRIPARTITE SENIOR OFFICIALS. THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR MADE THE POINT RAISED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN THAT THE BONN GROUP MIGHT TAKE A SPECIAL LOOK AT LIKELY SOVIET INTENTIONS, FACTORING IN GERMAN PLANS FOR FURTHER ACTIVITY IN DEVELOPING TIES.

3. THERE WAS A LENGTHY DISCUSSION, ON THE INITIATIVE OF STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF, ON THE LEGAL PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE GERMAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT'S DECISION INVALIDATING A PORTION OF THE FRG LAW ON ABORTION. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION AS TO THE ABSENCE OF ANY NEED FOR ALLIED ACTION, BUT AT THE END--AFTER REPEATED INSISTENCE BY GEHLHOFF--AGREED TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK PERSONALLY AT THE ARGUMENTS FOR PROVIDING SOME SORT OF FIG-LEAF ARRANGEMENT ALONG LINES

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PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W

----- 018456

R 021739Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0474

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 08810

WHICH THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS HAD ALREADY INDICATED MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THEM.

4. A DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY LED TO NO FIRM CONCLUSIONS, BUT THE THREE ALLIED AMBASSADORS MADE SOME HEADWAY IN IMPRESSING ON GEHLHOFF THE DESIRABILITY OF A STUDY IN SOME DEPTH BY THE BONN GROUP OF SUCH ISSUES AS INCLUSION OF BERLIN IN EC TREATIES INVOLVING THE EXERCISE OF POWER BY THE COMMUNITY CEDED TO IT BY MEMBER STATES, AND THE PARTICIPATION OF BERLIN IN EVENTUAL DIRECT ELECTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. GEHLHOFF AGREED THAT PARTICULARLY THE LATTER QUESTION WOULD PRESENT VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE GERMAN CABINET WHEN THE TIME CAME. HE MADE THE POINT THAT, WHILE BONN GROUP SECURITY WAS EXCELLENT, ONCE SUCH A SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED IN THE CABINET, IT CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD ALSO INEVITABLY BECOME A PUBLIC ISSUE. A SOLUTION COULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE FOUND, HE ADDED, PERHAPS ALONG THE LINES OF THE FORMULA PRESENTLY USED FOR THE SELECTION OF WEST BERLIN MEMBERS OF THE BUNDESTAG. APART FROM THAT, HE DID NOT REVEAL THE CONCLUSIONS, IF ANY, WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN REACHED BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE LEGAL DEPARTMENT IN ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE EC-BERLIN PROBLEM WHICH BEGAN LAST AUTUMN.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN08810
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750192-0237
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750688/aaaadbyg.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUADRIpartite AMBASSADORIAL LUNCHEON AT THE MONTHLY QUADRIpartite AMBASSADORIAL LUNCHEON
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GB, US, UK, FR, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006